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Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the subject application:

1. (currently amended) A facsimile apparatus coupled to a telephone line network and a local area network, comprising:
 - a facsimile communications mechanism configured to perform a facsimile communications operation;
 - a first image data storing mechanism configured to store image data representing a document image and to be inaccessible through the local area network;
 - a second image data storing mechanism configured to store image data and to be accessible through the local area network;
 - a backup arranging mechanism configured to store received document image data into the first image data storing mechanism and a copy of the received document image data into the second image data storing mechanism;
 - a confidential data determining mechanism configured to determine whether the received document image data is confidential; and
 - a controlling mechanism configured to cause the backup arranging mechanism to cancel storing the copy of the received document image data into the second image data storing mechanism, if [[when]] the received document image data is determined [[as]] to be confidential by the confidential data determining mechanism.

2. (currently amended) A facsimile apparatus coupled to a telephone line network and a

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local area network, comprising:

a facsimile communications mechanism configured to perform a facsimile communications operation;

a first image data storing mechanism configured to store image data representing a document image and to be inaccessible through the local area network;

a second image data storing mechanism configured to store image data and to be accessible through the local area network;

a backup arranging mechanism configured to store received document image data into the first image data storing mechanism and a copy of the received document image data into the second image data storing mechanism;

a confidential data determining mechanism configured to determine whether the received document image data stored in the second image data storing mechanism is confidential upon a receipt of a data transmission request for transmitting the received document image data stored in the second image data storing mechanism from an external terminal through the local area network; and

a controlling mechanism configured to refuse the data transmission request from the external terminal through the local area network, if [[when]] the received document image data is determined [[as]] to be confidential by the confidential data determining mechanism.

3. (currently amended) A facsimile apparatus coupled to a telephone line network and a local area network, comprising:

a facsimile communications mechanism configured to perform a facsimile communications operation;

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a web server mechanism configured to allow a web browser to show received document data;

a first image data storing mechanism configured to store image data representing a document image and to be inaccessible through the local area network;

a second image data storing mechanism configured to store image data and to be accessible through the local area network;

a backup arranging mechanism configured to store received document image data into the first image data storing mechanism and a copy of the received document image data into the second image data storing mechanism;

a confidential data determining mechanism configured to determine whether the received document image data stored in the second image data storing mechanism is confidential upon a receipt of a data transmission request for transmitting the received document image data stored in the second image data storing mechanism from a web browser through the local area network; and

a controlling mechanism configured to refuse the data transmission request from the web browser through the local area network, if [[when]] the received document image data is determined [[as]] to be confidential by the confidential data determining mechanism.

4. (currently amended) A facsimile apparatus coupled to a telephone line network and a local area network, comprising:

communicating means for performing a facsimile communications operation;

first image data storing means inaccessible through the local area network for storing image data representing a document image;

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second image data storing means accessible through the local area network for storing image data;

backup arranging means for storing received document image data into the first image data storing means and a copy of the received document image data into the second image data storing means;

confidential data determining means for determining whether the received document image data is confidential; and

controlling means for causing the backup arranging means to cancel storing the copy of the received document image data into the second image data storing means, if [[when]] the received document image data is determined [[as]] to be confidential by the confidential data determining means.

5. (currently amended) A facsimile apparatus coupled to a telephone line network and a local area network, comprising:

communicating means for performing a facsimile communications operation;

first image data storing means inaccessible through the local area network for storing image data representing a document image;

second image data storing means accessible through the local area network for storing image data;

backup arranging means for storing received document image data into the first image data storing means and a copy of the received document image data into the second image data storing means;

confidential data determining means for determining whether the received document

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image data stored in the second image data storing means is confidential upon a receipt of a data transmission request for transmitting the received document image data stored in the second image data storing means from an external terminal through the local area network; and

controlling means for refusing the data transmission request from the external terminal through the local area network, if [[when]] the received document image data is determined [[as]] to be confidential by the confidential data determining means.

6. (currently amended) A facsimile apparatus coupled to a telephone line network and a local area network, comprising:

communicating means for performing a facsimile communications operation;

web server means for allowing a web browser to show received document data;

first image data storing means inaccessible through the local area network for storing image data representing a document image;

second image data storing means accessible through the local area network for storing image data;

backup arranging means for storing received document image data into the first image data storing means and a copy of the received document image data into the second image data storing means;

confidential data determining means for determining whether the received document image data stored in the second image data storing means is confidential upon a receipt of a data transmission request for transmitting the received document image data stored in the second image data storing means from a web browser through the local area network; and

controlling means for refusing the data transmission request from the web browser

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through the local area network, if [[when]] the received document image data is determined [[as]] to be confidential by the confidential data determining means.

7. (currently amended) A communications method for a facsimile apparatus coupled to a telephone line network and a local area network, comprising the steps of:

 performing a facsimile communications operation;

 determining whether the received document data is confidential;

 storing received document image data representing the received document image, into a first memory image data storing mechanism inaccessible through the local area network; and

 copying the received document image data into a second memory image data storing mechanism accessible through the local area network, if [[when]] the received document data is determined as not confidential by the determining step,

 wherein the copying step is cancelled, if [[when]] the received document data is determined [[as]] to be confidential by the determining step.

8. (currently amended) A communications method for a facsimile apparatus coupled to a telephone line network and a local area network, comprising the steps of:

 performing a facsimile communications operation;

 storing received document image data representing a received document image, into a first memory image data storing mechanism inaccessible through the local area network;

 copying the received document image data into a second memory image data storing mechanism accessible through the local area network;

 determining whether the received document image data stored in the second memory

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image data storing mechanism is confidential upon a receipt of a data transmission request for transmitting the received document image data stored in the second memory image data storing mechanism from an external terminal through the local area network; and

refusing the data transmission request from the external terminal through the local area network, if [[when]] the received document image data is determined [[as]] to be confidential by the determining step.

9. (currently amended) A communications method for a facsimile apparatus coupled to a telephone line network and a local area network, comprising the steps of:

performing a facsimile communications operation;

storing received document image data representing a received document image, into a first memory image data storing mechanism inaccessible through the local area network;

copying the received document image data into a second memory image data storing mechanism accessible through the local area network;

determining whether the received document image data stored in the second memory image data storing mechanism is confidential upon a receipt of a data transmission request for transmitting the received document image data stored in the second memory image data storing mechanism from a web browser through the local area network; and

refusing the data transmission request from the web browser through the local area network, if [[when]] the received document image data is determined [[as]] to be confidential by the determining step.

10. (currently amended) A computer readable data recording medium storing a program

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which causes a computer to execute operations according to a communications method for a facsimile apparatus coupled to a telephone line network and a local area network, comprising the steps of:

performing a facsimile communications operation;

storing received document image data representing a received document image, into a first memory image data storing mechanism inaccessible through the local area network;

copying the received document image data into a second memory image data storing mechanism accessible through the local area network;

determining whether the received document image data stored in the second memory image data storing mechanism is confidential upon a receipt of a data transmission request for transmitting the received document image data stored in the second memory image data storing mechanism from a web browser through the local area network; and

refusing the data transmission request from the web browser through the local area network, if [[when]] the received document image data is determined [[as]] to be confidential by the determining step.

11. (previously presented) A machine readable medium embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform the method claimed in claim 7.

12. (original) A computer system, comprising:

a processor; and

a program storage device readable by the computer system, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the processor to perform the method claimed in claim 7.

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Claim 13 (canceled).

14. (previously presented) A machine readable medium embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform the method claimed in claim 8.

15. (original) A computer system, comprising:

a processor; and
a program storage device readable by the computer system, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the processor to perform the method claimed in claim 8.

Claim 16 (canceled).

17. (previously presented) A machine readable medium embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform the method claimed in claim 9.

18. (original) A computer system, comprising:

a processor; and
a program storage device readable by the computer system, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the processor to perform the method claimed in claim 9.

Claim 19 (canceled).

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20. (currently amended) The facsimile apparatus of claim 1, wherein said backup mechanism checks contents of the first and second image data storing mechanisms, and if one of the first and second image data storing mechanisms includes non-confidential contents that are not in the other of the first and second image data storing mechanisms, said backup mechanism duplicates the non-confidential contents of the one of the first and second image data storing mechanisms to the other of the first and second image data storing mechanisms.

21. (new) The facsimile apparatus of claim 1, wherein if the confidential data determining mechanism determines that the received document image data is confidential, the received document image data is stored in the facsimile apparatus only in said first image data storing mechanism that is inaccessible through the local area network.